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Afghan generals praise contributions of Robins Airman

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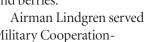
78th Air Base Wing

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Several Afghan officers visited here to recognize an Airman for helping establish a computer network system for the Afghan military.

Senior Airman Jason Lindgren, a 78th Communications Squadron computer networking specialist, forged a close working relationship with Afghan Brig. Gens. Mehrab Ali and Baba Mirza while deployed for more than four

months in Afghanistan.

Airman Lindgren said because of the nature of his job, "every time we went to their office, we would poke our heads in and say 'hi.' (The generals) would sit us down in chairs and call for tea, nuts and berries."



with the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan, a Defense Department organization of about 200 people located in downtown Kabul. The office included 10 people in the communications section and others who were

"When I was getting ready to leave, the officers were preparing a visit to the states," Airman Lindgren said. "I told them 'when you're coming

Airman Lindgren arrived here March 2, and within days he learned the generals were on the way. He gathered for the reunion with Airmen of his squadron; his father, Jeff Lindgren, and his girlfriend, Kay Weathers.

"I'm still kind of in awe thinking about how nice

and how caring and generous they are. I was on cloud

nine when it was all happening," he said. General

"I fully realize it was a one-in-a-million assignment," he said. "This is by far the most fulfilling assignment I've had yet or will have in the foreseeable future. And I would do it all again in a heartbeat."



Senior Airman Jason Lindgren accepts a gift from Afghan Brig. Gen. Baba Mirza. Airman Lindgren is a 78th Communications Squadron computer networking specialist, and he helped establish a computer network system for the Afghan military.

health specialists, security, administrative specialists and mentors. through Georgia, that's where (I am)."

as many as "90 percent of the people want us there." "Everywhere we went, children gave us thumbs up and people would smile," he said. "Some would approach and say 'thank you' and shake your hand."

> With the help of his mother and others in the United States, Airman Lindgren was able to get school supplies and toys, which he and others gave to elementary schools. Personal care items sent from home were given to teachers.

Ali gave Airman Lindgren a handmade marble

Afghanistan. Then they surprised Ms. Weathers

with a medallion. The generals said they had

seen photos of her on Airman Lindgren's com-

puter and knew that he talked about her often.

General Ali said through an interpreter that it was

appropriate to bring something made by the hands of

the people as a token of appreciation for what Airman

Airman Lindgren, who lived in an American

Kabul, said he never felt there was any imminent

"It was reassuring being out with the people

don't hear much about Afghanistan on the news

because it's going so well over there. One of the

He said he learned through interpreters that

things they worry about most is that we will

Lindgren had done "for Afghanistan and the recon-

compound of homes in a residential area of

and seeing how nice they are," he said. "You

struction process."

danger.

leave."

tea set, and General Mirza gave him a small lapis jewelry box, both from material mined in

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